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(72) Inventor: Berson, William
Westport, Connecticut 06880 (US)

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(74) Representative: Frank, Veit Peter, Dipl.-Ing. et al
Hoffmann Eitle,
Patent- und Rechtsanwälte
Arabellastrasse 4
81925 München (DE)

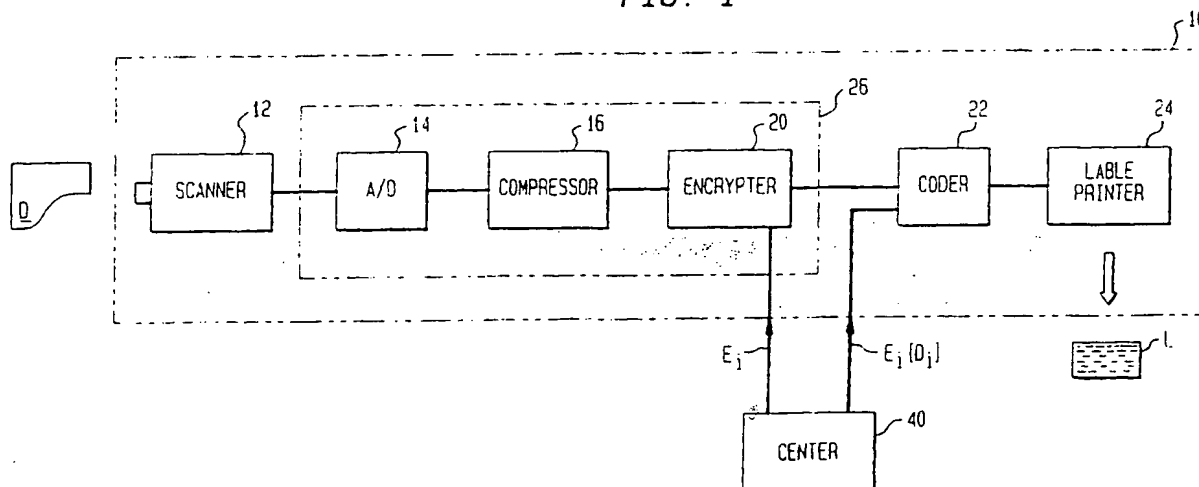
(71) Applicant: PITNEY BOWES INC.
Stamford Connecticut 06926-0700 (US)

(54) Secure document and method and apparatus for producing and authenticating same

(57) A document secure against tampering or alteration and method and apparatus for producing and authenticating such a document. A document is scanned to produce a digital signal which is compressed, encrypted, and coded as a two dimensional barcode or as some other appropriate form of coding, which is incorporated into a label which is affixed to the document. In one embodiment the signal representing the image is encrypted using a public key encryption system and the

key is downloaded from a center. This key may be changed from time to time to increase security. To facilitate authentication the corresponding decryption key is encrypted with another key and incorporated on the card. To validate the document the coded signal is scanned from the label, decoded, decrypted, expanded and displayed. The card may then be authenticated by comparison of the displayed representation of the image and the document.

FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.5)
X	EP 0 286 378 A (LIGHT SIGNATURES INC) 12 October 1988	1-3,10, 11,13, 14,16,17	G07F7/12 G07D7/00 H04N1/44
Y	* the whole document *	4,5,7, 12,15,18	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		8 September 1997	Guivol, 0
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application I : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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